

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 17, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that today a federal jury in San Diego found Arif Ali Durrani guilty of multiple violations of the Arms Export Control Act. Specifically, the jury convicted Durrani of four counts of Exporting Defense Articles Without a License and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the United States.

According to Assistant United States Attorney William Cole, who prosecuted the case, the evidence at trial established that Durrani intentionally conspired with other persons to illegally export military aircraft parts from the United States to the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Belgium. The illegal exports included: temperature control amplifiers for the General Electric J85 turbine engine used on the F-5 fighter and other military aircraft; an afterburner hydraulic actuator for the J85 engine; and 1st Stage Turbine Nozzles for the Honeywell T55 engine used on the Chinook military helicopter.

According to court documents, Durrani, a Pakistani national, was previously convicted in 1987 of violating the Arms Export Control Act by illegally exporting HAWK missile system components from the United States. Durrani was subsequently ordered deported from the United States. The evidence at trial

established that, after his deportation, Durrani settled in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, and from there orchestrated the illegal exports for which the jury found him guilty today.

United States Attorney Lam stated, "The Arms Export Control Act exists to prevent exactly what Durrani tried to do in this case – profit from illegal, international arms trafficking."

"Durrani is one of ICE's most significant arms trafficking targets in recent years. Today's conviction is testament to the perseverance of ICE agents, who, for nearly two decades, have conducted multiple investigations to expose and halt Durrani's repeated attempts to illegally export arms," said Serge Duarte, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge for ICE investigations in San Diego.

"DCIS protects America's Warfighters by working to ensure defense technology is not stolen by those who could use it against the United States or its allies," said Richard W. Gwin, Special Agent in Charge, Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

Durrani is scheduled to appear for sentencing before United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns on June 5, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Case No. 05-CR-1746-LAB

Arif Ali Durrani

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1: Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the United States; Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine

Counts 2 through 5: Title 22, United States Code, Sections 2778(b)(2) and (c) - Exporting Defense Articles Without a License; Maximum penalties per count: 10 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Defense Criminal Investigative Service
Department of State